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April 8, 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Richard Bissell, Assistant Administrator  
Bureau for Program and Policy Coordination - AID

FROM : Saul S. Geffer, P/DE - USIA

SUBJECT : Boston University Program Reports

As I mentioned in our telephone conversation of today I am sending one copy each of the Boston University program reports for January and February.

Best regards

cc: P:Mr. Horner/Mr. Schnieder  
P/D: Mr. Mosher

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United States Information Agency  
Under the Freedom of Information  
Act. Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Boston University

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Office of the Dean



*January*

Dr. Saul Gefter  
United States Information Agency  
Afghan Media Project  
301 4th Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20547

February 28, 1987

Dear Dr. Gefter:

Please find enclosed the January 1987 report for the Afghan Media Project, grant # IA22463-19-G.

Sincerely Yours,

*Ronald S. Goldman*

Ronald S. Goldman  
Associate Dean



### The Afghan Media project

Grant #IA22463-19-G

Program Report Period January 1-31, 1987

Boston University was now formally responsible for carrying out the detailed work plan prepared by Hearst. That work plan for the establishment of the Afghan News Service made it quite clear that all future activity depended upon the nomination of an Afghan Director of the News Agency.

Dr. Ronald Goldman of Boston University visited Pakistan to oversee the initiation of the training program (see special report on this trip prepared by Dr. Goldman). While he was in Pakistan he was told repeatedly by Mr. Kent Obee of USIA that the Pakistan government was close to nominating an acceptable candidate to direct the news service. He was told that the Pakistan government had finally received nominations for the Director from the Afghan parties and that what now was required was for the Pakistan Afghan "cell" (task force) to meet to make a final decision.

As is clear from Dr. Goldman's travel report he was pessimistic about the likelihood that a Director would ever be named by the Pakistani government. However, Mr. Kent Obee continued to be quite optimistic. As a result it was necessary to simply put all Afghan New Agency activity on hold until such time that the Director was named or until such time that all parties were ready to face the fact that another plan would have to be developed.

In the meantime arrangements for the first training program were made, even though Mr. Obee had advised against the arrival of the Boston University team. His reasoning was that this might disrupt the delicate state of the negotiations over the appointment of the News Director. However, the Boston University team did make arrangements with several existing news services in Peshawar and training was due to commence on February 1, 1987. This was good news as far as the future news service was concerned since, if a news Director would be named, he would have available a pool of trained field reporters.

No monies from the grant were expended during this month.

Boston University

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March 10, 1987

Dr. Saul Gelter  
Afghan Media Staff  
USIA  
301 4th St., SW  
Washington, DC 20547

*1/8*  
*sent to*  
*be reviewed*  
*by*  
*Dean Gilman*  
*3/17/87*  
*SSC*

Dear Saul:

The Afghan Media Project February report is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

*Ron*

Ron Goldman

**February Report**  
**Afghan Media Project**  
**Grant #IA-22464-19-G**

On February 1, 1987, the Boston University team began training 30 Afghans to report the news using print, photo and video. From all accounts the training program is successful and plans are being developed for a second phase of training.

Boston University's training team arrived in Pakistan in mid-January to find that the Pakistan government still had not nominated a director for the projected Afghan News Service. Since the training program plans had been developed to coincide with such a nomination, it became necessary to establish a new plan for training. It was also imperative to do so quickly so that the training program could begin without any further delay. We made the decision to approach existing news services (Afghan Information Center, Afghan Information and Documentation Center, Jamiat Film Center) and were received by all three enthusiastically (See Dean Goldman's January trip report). These three organizations sent students to the program as did the Agency Islamic Press.

The "unofficial" nature of the project, caused by the Government of Pakistan's refusal to grant official permission, required our obtaining facilities "unofficially." This meant finding the best possible facility rather than an ideal one. The International Rescue Committee (IRC) offered us the use of a classroom but, understandably, on their terms. This meant that we could only use the facility from 2-5:30 p.m. each day, for five days per week. Equipment had to be set up and taken down each day; plumbing, electrical and janitorial services were all lacking. Nevertheless the trainers made do and did well.

The initial plan to conduct classes all day obviously could not work under these conditions. However, the Training Director reports that students were exhausted at the end of three and one half hours and that he could not recommend many more contact hours for the Phase Two program (more about that later). Considerable time was spent outside of the formal class hours on field projects, and homework assignments. Instructors concentrated upon correcting work and occasional consulting with additional staff of the news services with whom we were working.

Trainers report that among the trainees were some "stars" and we got a "satisfying percentage of quality candidates in this program," even though we had to adopt rather unorthodox screening and recruiting mechanisms. Precise numbers will be supplied by mid-March when we have the complete trainer report and evaluation data available.

The outline of a recommended plan for distribution and marketing and for the second training phase has begun to emerge from the trainers. I will not discuss the emerging marketing and distribution plan at this stage. A second training program will begin as early in April as is technically possible. Candidates will be recruited from commanders associated with the various parties. The program will be run from a facility which we control. This means that arrangements should be made for the leasing of a house. This will make possible extended contact hours, although the director for training recommends no more than four contact hours per day. This will be discussed upon his return.